

Gospel of John

The Resurrection

Structure

- Prologue (1: 1-18) - Above
- Book of Signs (Chapter 2 – Chapter 11) – Coming Down
 - Each sign is followed by discourse
- **Book of Glory (Chapter 12 – 20) – nearing the Climax, then going back above**
 - **The Resurrection- Ch 20**
- **Appendix (Chapter 21) – Appearances; ‘other things not written’**

Jesus Predicts His Resurrection

Jesus is the source of life (John 1:4)

- It's about believing in the promises of Jesus

Jesus spoke about life many times (very important)

- More than 40 times in the Gospel of John
- Chapter 3, discourse with Nicodemus
- Jesus came to give life abundantly

Jesus Predicts His Resurrection

His own predictions

- Water into Wine –
 - Saving the best for last, best wine/best joy (resurrection)
- Destroy this Temple (2:13-25) and I will rebuild it in 3 days
- Jn 6 – Whoever eats my body, will be raised on the last day
- I lay down my life and take it up again (10:17-18)
- The raising of Lazarus from the dead

The Resurrection

The resurrection is the foundation of the Christian faith
– John invites the reader/listener to encounter *the risen Jesus* as well

- John describes four journeys/encounters
 - Mary of Magdala
 - The disciples (Peter, The Beloved Disciple, etc.)
 - Thomas
 - Future believers

No one was expecting the resurrection, in spite of Jesus' predictions

The Empty Tomb

Mary comes before dawn – ‘while it was still dark’

- Without Jesus, in darkness
- She finds the stone removed, tomb open
- Runs to Peter and The Beloved Disciple

We last encountered them...

Publicly denying Jesus – At the foot of the cross

The Empty Tomb

The beloved disciples arrives first, but waits for Peter

- Peter is the leader, in spite of his denial

They find burial cloths

- Folded, organized
- Not stolen away by robbers (a rumor)
- Different from the raising of Lazarus
- Their reaction was ambiguous – not sure what they were seeing

“he saw and believed” – Something extraordinary happened

...but they did not yet understand, so they went home

Mary Magdalene

Where is Mary to go? - She looks in the tomb and see angels

- Unlike everyone else who encounters angels, she is not afraid
- “Woman, why are you weeping?”
- She is lost without Jesus

– “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him”

Songs 3:3 – “The watchmen found me,
as they made their rounds in the city:

“Him whom my soul loves—have you seen him?”

Mary Magdalene

Jesus Himself revealed to her His resurrection

- Supposing him to be a gardener – The New Garden (New Adam)
- “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” -
 - Similar to the call of Philip and Andrew
 - Woman – a relationship is about to be transformed
 - Mediator of The Good News/Resurrection Apostle
- She was not looking for Him alive, thought his body was stolen
- ‘Mary’
 - The Good Shepherd calls the sheep by name (10:3)
 - The sheep follow him because they know his voice (10:4)

The Resurrected Jesus

‘Rabboni!’

- She addresses Him *as before*, but things are different now

“Do not hold onto me” –

- Transcendent, things are different now
- Glorified is not like before, more than restored - new
- The Father’s plan is complete – communion with The Father for mankind

“But go to *my brothers* and say to them”

She saw the light and needed to tell others – Apostle par excellence

Hardly had I left them
when I found him
whom my soul loves.
I held him and would
not let him go...
(Songs 3:4)

The Locked Room

“When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week”

- like Mary, in darkness
- First day of the week – day of the new creation, new covenant

“Peace be with you”

- They had betrayed, abandoned and denied Him
- Failed to keep their own promises to Him
- They were ashamed and fearful of Him, they had no peace
- Jesus is unlike anyone before Him

Jesus' peace restored life, relationships, trust, right relationship with God

The Disciples

“After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.”

- This is the same body that died
- Not resuscitated – resurrected - His body is glorified
- The wounds become the evidence of His love – victory through the cross
- Jesus is the source of life, and beloved son of God

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

- They are commissioned
- The Church is the extension of Jesus’ work just as He was of the Father’s

Gift of the Holy Spirit

Jesus breathed on them

- They were 'dead' in their fear and sin
- The Holy Spirit is creating them anew (molded, life breathed in like Adam)
- Jesus has reconciled the world to Himself/The Father
- The Holy Spirit is given for the forgiveness of sins

“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

- Power for the sacrament of Reconciliation – one of the first things Jesus does
- Jesus shares the divine authority with the Apostles

Thomas, Doubter and Believer

Thomas wasn't with them – didn't believe their story

“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

Thomas' faith had conditions

A week later, Jesus returns – “Shalom”... “Put your finger here...”

The ultimate exclamation of faith

- Christ called him to faith “Do not doubt, but believe”
- “My Lord and my *God!*” - The same as God in the OT (YHWH)
 - Thomas goes all in – one of the greatest confessions in the Gospels
 - The fullness of Jesus' divinity is revealed

Future Disciples

“Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Jesus bestows a special blessing on the future church – Us!! Woot!!

Beyond what could be written – *“But these are written so that you may come to believe”*

- The way he acted, interacted, His very presence
- Intangible impact, Sacred Tradition – the experience of those who knew Him
- All to call you to belief – so that *you may have life*

Resurrection changes everything – Hope, victory, life

Small Group Questions

- Do you understand the disciples fear and Mary's confusion? Have you encountered Jesus in ways He has surprised you?
- Did Thomas believe because Jesus met his conditions? Do we have our own criteria for our faith lives/journey?
- Do you think Thomas was speaking on behalf of others (disciples/apostles) who were not there at the first appearance?
- What do you think of the impact the Resurrection has had in your own life? On the world? Are you truly waiting for the resurrection?

The Church's Mission

In Galilee - unsure of what to do, several of the apostles went fishing

- Like the old days, clinging to 'before'
- 'at night' – caught nothing *in darkness*
- The old ways won't work anymore – can do nothing without 'the light'
- Jesus encounters them at dawn

“Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?””

- Also means 'any food' – The feeding of the multitude nearby
- A rhetorical question, they caught nothing on their own

The Church's Mission

They followed his instructions, He provided in abundance (like at Cana)

“they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.”

“It is the Lord!”

- The beloved disciple ‘knows’
- Peter gets dressed up and jumps in the water
 - He is ‘all in’ when he encounters Christ

Peter and the disciples find Jesus *by a charcoal fire...*

... with fish on it, and bread nearby

The Church's Mission

Jesus asks them to bring the fish they caught - 153 Large fish

- 153 symbolized 'the nations of the world', universality
- 'large' – not just the vulnerable, but all - abundant
- The net did not break – unity and the church always has room for more
- Peter, on his own, brought them 'to Jesus'

Miraculous catch, unlikely location, beyond expectations and abilities--

In obedience to Christ, miracles abound

Fed by Christ

“Come and have breakfast.”

- Jesus feeds them
- They knew it was The Lord, they didn't ask questions
- Revelation was unfolding in front of them

Bread and fish – Where did these come from? Eucharistic

- Miracle of the loaves/fish, but Jesus provides
- Jesus is about to feed them before asking them to feed others
- Jesus himself was sharing w/ the disciples – Jesus is the true catch

Jesus and Peter

By a charcoal fire...

“Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

- Jesus *does not call him Peter*
- Reminds him of his denial, and his boast (Matt 26:33)
- Jesus asks & commands three times

“Do you love me?”

“Feed my lambs” -- “Tend my sheep”-- “feed my sheep”

Appointing a Shepherd

Peter *is* called to love more than others

- “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”
- Lord, you know *everything* – his denial is not hidden
- Loving Jesus is the precondition to feeding the lambs
- The Good Shepherd appoints an earthly shepherd over His flock
- Like Jesus, he must lay down his life for the sheep

Predicts Peter’s own coming persecution, where he will not deny Jesus

“Follow me.”

The Beloved Disciple

Peter asked Jesus - *“Lord, what about him?”*

- Peter was asking questions he didn't need to – similar to ‘who is the greatest?’
- Competition among the apostles – Jesus calls them to collegiality

“If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!”

- Jesus rebukes him gently again – keep your focus on Jesus
- John's Gospel remains as a testimony to the risen Lord

“But there are also many other things that Jesus did; ... the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.”

The authenticity of the revelation - More than just the stories in the Bible

Small Group Questions

- How do you think we can nourish our communities with the life of Jesus? What is your role – what can you do?
- Does the Church appear exclusive from the outside? Are we inviting to all?
- Why do you think people don't go to confession very often (or at all)?
- How do you prepare yourself to evangelize? How do we get beyond our fear of reaching out to others?

Wrap Up

- God is concerned with our lives, loves us unconditionally
- He identifies with the human condition
 - The light and the dark
 - He came to lift us up – give us life in abundance
 - Draw us into eternal life, direct our attention to ‘above’
- If you don’t believe, you don’t have life – faith in Christ is critical
- The resurrection is everything

What did you learn?